Dear Governor Davis,

I suggest that we should have a law that tells us not to leave trash on beaches. If there is a law already in place, then I suggest we take strong measures to enforce the law.

I think this because a lot of people leave trash on beaches and eventually the trash will get picked up by the tide. When this happens a lot of animals die. Some become or are close to becoming extinct. Every day and night tons of sea animals die because of trash!

Here are some reasons why we should have or enforce this law. Lots of people don’t pick up trash, mostly plastic bags. Turtles eat jellyfish, as you may know, but what I’m getting at is that plastic bags look like jellyfish in a turtle’s eyes. Then when the turtle swallows the bag it chokes because the bag is so thick. The turtle then dies. Another problem is the plastic six-pack soda rings that are left on the beach. When seagulls poke their heads in everything you know that they’re going to get into trouble. Well, they do. In fact, some seagulls get their beaks stuck in these plastic soda rings and then they die from starvation. Also, the seals are very curious animals and they will sometimes try to eat two liter plastic soda bottles that float out with the tide. This can make them sick or even kill them. Another really big reason to outlaw trash on beaches is the fact that California has the most beautiful beaches in the world. People come from all over the place to visit our coastline. How sad it would be if they left thinking we didn’t care about our own beaches and allowed people to throw trash anywhere.

Here is an example of how we can clean our beaches. I remember every summer when we go to the beach we have a picnic lunch. With six people in my family we can sometimes create a lot of trash. My mom always brings a ‘trash bag’ and when we are done eating we have to put every scrap of trash in the bag. We even clean up the beach in our immediate area and put other people’s trash in our bag. I am a Girl Scout and my mom is a Girl Scout Leader. We live by the creed: “Leave a place better than you find it”. But anyone can do this … you don’t have to be a Girl Scout! At the end of our day at the beach, we take the trash bag out to the parking lot and place it in a trash can.

Some people might think that they should not have to clean up. Perhaps they think that is somebody else’s job. But nobody wants to go to a stinky, messy, polluted beach . . . and the animals that live there do not want to have a messy home. I am sure that the Great State of California has some sort of law that makes it illegal to leave trash on the beautiful beaches. What I’m wondering is why that law is not enforced. If it is too costly to have people patrol the beach and give tickets to those who leave their trash behind, then maybe it’s time to consider not allowing people to bring food or beverages to the beaches. I would be sad to see that happen, though, because I enjoy a picnic lunch on the beach.

Think of it – a junkyard! No beach deserves to be raided with trash, so please consider the idea of making a law to stop people from polluting our beaches or please consider enforcing this law if there is one. I know that you make the best choice you can!

Sincerely,

Lizzie